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Federal Communications of Consission Office of the Scoretary.

February 19, 2005

Chairman Michael Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th. Street SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell;

AT&T has evaded intrastate access charges through a pre-paid calling card service, exploiting a drastic loophole and costing the universal fund millions of dollars. This cannot continue. The blatant misuse of power damages the telecom industry as a whole and compromises the integrity of universal service fund.

AT&T has created a hollow service on its pre-paid calling cards that enables them to avoid paying what they owe. This hollow service is just a pre-recorded message providing no value, and by so doing, they are free from paying into the universal service fund by labeling this an "enhanced service". This has been adding up to more than 100 million dollars, which could be used to build up networks and advance communication technologies throughout our nation.

The deployment of advanced communications is something that can service all Americans. The FCC must be able to assure consumers that AT&T cannot create loopholes just for their company, and that one company is not exempt from paying into the network it relies upon. It's the FCC's responsibility to end this injustice and quit giving special treatment to AT&T.

Thank you, Sam Steiger

SAM STEIGER

SS/dej

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CC:

Commissioner Kathleen Q Abernathy Commissioner Michael J. Copps Commissioner Kevin J. Martin Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



MAR 1 0 2005

February 17, 2005

The Honorable Michael K. Powell Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 B201 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 B115 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Kevin Martin Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 A204 Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Commissioners:

VIA FACSIMILE

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary The Honorable Michael Copps

Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW. Room 8 A302 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Jonathan Adelstein Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 C302 Washington, DC 20554

I have read recently that AT&T has been unfairly avoiding contributions to the critical Universal Service Fund by daiming their calling card calls are not a phone call because they play advertisements to the customer before the call is connected.

That a phone call would not be a phone call just because an advertisement is played during the call connection is ludicrous.

AT&T has admitted it did not pay \$160 million in contributions to the Universal Service Fund and also did not pay companies \$215 million in access charges government regulations require for line access.

As someone who uses the telephone for my job raising funds for a non-profit foundation, I know that a phone call is a phone call.

AT&T's actions are unfair and they should be required to not only make the required Universal Service Fund contribution on all future calling card calls, but they should be required to make retroactive payments to the USF to make up for the contributions they have been avoiding.

The payments that have been avoiding would go to help low-income families afford telephone service and help connect rural hospitals and schools to the Internet. Please make this right.

Sincerely,

Heather Pack Henderson, NV

Cc: Senator Harry Reid

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Sproul & Associates, Inc.

A Consulting And Management Company

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MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

2/15

MICHAEL POWELL FCC CHAIRMAN FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 445 12TH STREET SW WASHINGTON, DC 20554

RE: WC DOCKET No. 03-133/

DEAR CHAIRMAN POWELL,

AT&T HAS ONCE AGAIN TIPTOED AROUND THE RULES AND EXPLOITED THE FCC'S RULES GOVERNING THE TELECOM COMMUNITY. THIS TIME, THEY ARE LABELING A PRE-RECORDED ADVERTISEMENT ON ITS CALLING CARDS AN "ENHANCED SERVICE". UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NOTHING "ENHANCED" ABOUT THIS SERVICE. IT IS JUST A WAY TO GET AROUND WHAT AT&T RIGHTFULLY OWES TO THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND, THE FUND THAT SUPPORTS THE ENTIRE TELECOM INDUSTRY. THIS IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF A COMPANY NOT PLAYING FAIR.

AT&T HAS AVOIDED PAYMENT ON UPWARDS OF \$160 MILLION IN UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS. THAT IS MONEY THAT GOES TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, MAKING TODAY'S TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE TO ALL COMMUNITIES. AT&T HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY AND CONSCIOUSLY TAKING MONEY AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND AND INTO THEIR POCKETS.

THE FCC STEPPED IN EARLIER IN 2004 WHEN AT&T AVOIDED PAYING FOR ITS LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, SO THIS ISN'T NEW TERRITORY FOR EITHER AT&T OR THE FCC. WHEN IT COMES TO THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND, IT TAKES ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES TO MAKE IT WORK, AND WHEN ONE COMPANY CHEATS THE SYSTEM, IT SETS UP A PRECARIOUS PRECEDENT.

PLEASE STEP IN AND STOP AT&T FROM THE FRAUD IT'S PERPETRATING. THE FCC HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE FUND OF WHICH TELECOM COMPANIES NEED TO GROW.

SINCERELY,

NATHAN SPROUL

COMMISSIONER KATHLEEN Q. ABERNATHY, COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN.

COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN

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4715 North 32nd Street • Suite 107 • Phoenix, Arizona **850**18 (602) 955-2545 office fax (602) 955-2385

Denali Foods, Inc. A Franchisee of Taco Bell Corp. 3301 Denali St., Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 Telephone: 907 562 3355 Fax: 907 563 4757

February 21, 2005

The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Room 8 B-201 Washington D.C. 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

RECEIVED

MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to urge you and the Federal Communications Commission to take a firm stand concerning the roughly \$340-million in payments AT&T has withheld in intrastate connection fees and the \$160-million in payments to the universal services fund.

I find it very troublesome that with all of the money companies like AT&T spend on attorneys, they were unaware that simply adding a self-promoting commercial to pre-paid phone cards would indeed absolve them from paying these federally mandated fees. Even if they were unaware, it seems apparent that they made no attempts to find out if they were indeed exempt before withholding a half-billion dollars in fees their competition had been paying. Nevertheless ignorance of the law has never been a viable defense. Now that they are aware Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska is saying that AT&T, "launched a disinformation campaign on the Universal Services program." Stevens reminded the public that the USF helps fund the high costs of telephone delivery to rural Americans and funds internet services in schools, libraries and health facilities across the country.

For the reasons listed above I again ask this commission to be fair, but also firm and just in dealing with this issue. Send a clear message that to enjoy the rewards of a free-market economy you must be willing to adhere to the rules and laws that provide a level playing field in the marketplace. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely.

Dale Martens

President

Denali Foods, Inc., dba Taco Bell of Alaska

3301 Denali St. Ste. 200 Anchorage, AK 99503

cc: The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner, The Honorable Kevin Martin, Commissioner, The Honorable Michael Copps, Commissioner, The Honorable Jonathon Adelstein, Commissioner and Sen. Ted Stevens

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Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

Min Waban Dan

February 18, 2005

Administrative Office RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

523 Ashmun Street

Chairman Michael Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW

Sault Ste. Marle

Washington, DC 20554

Michigan 49783

Dear Chairman Powell:

Phone

906.635.6050

for

906.635.4969

Government Services

Membership Services

Economic Development Commission I write on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to express our concern with the FCC's proposal to allow new charges and fees to be imposed on pre-paid calling card services. This

imposed on pre-paid calling card services. This proposal will raise the cost of pre-paid calling cards as much as 20% on the millions of people who rely on this low-cost phone service. We urge the Commission to reject this misguided proposal as it will have a disproportionate and negative effect on

Native American communities across the nation.

Sincerely,

Robert Nygaard

Legislative Director

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MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

Min Waban Dan

February 18, 2005

Administrative Office RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

523 Ashmun Street

Commissioner Michael Copps Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW

Sault Ste. Marie

Michigan Washington, DC 20554

49783

Dear Commissioner Copps:

Phone

906.635.6050

Fax

906.635.4969

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Commissioner Kevin Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW

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Legislative Director

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Federal Community considermission
Office of the Secretary

Administrative

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

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523 Ashmun Street

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW MAR 1 0 2005

Sault Ste. Marie

Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications (Alission Office of the Secretary

49783

Michigan

Office

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

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Federal Communications Commission
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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

523 Ashmun Street

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW

Sault Ste. Marie

Washington, DC 20554

Michigan 49783

Dear Commissioner Abernathy:

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Fax

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Sincerely,

Robert Nygaard

Legislative Director

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Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp 2 RECEIVED

February 9, 2005

Federal Communications Commission The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Room 8 B-201

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Washington D.C. 20554

Mr. Chairman:

It is fairly apparent that our nation will be looking at a complete over-haul of our telecommunications laws in this country. And while this is a much needed and noble undertaking for it to be effective, one must be certain that the new laws will be adhered too. The best way to do this is to ensure that current laws are enforced and followed.

Currently AT&T is asking the commission to look the other way when it comes to nearly a half-billion dollars in intrastate access fees and universal services fund payment owed as a result of their sale of prepaid telecommunication phone cards. AT&T would like the commission to believe that their placement of a self-serving computer generated commercial into the prompts of their card, allows them an exemption from the 10-percent intrastate connection fee, because the card is now "enhanced". What this argument lacks in logic, AT&T tries to gain back in emotion, by claiming that forcing them to adhere to the law would be a detriment to our fighting men and women serving overseas in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) addressed this argument in a fetter reported in "The Hill" last week.

"We strongly support keeping the costs low for our overseas military personnel [but] we also believe that companies should not be able to dismiss federal rules to gain unfair advantages over potential competitors," sad Rogers. "Relief should be carried out through legitimate rulemaking or a waiver by the commission that is available to all carriers."

AT&T wants the commission to over look the fact that they never sought an exemption from paying these fees or whether their interpretation of "enhancement" was consistent with the commission's rules for the same. These actions by AT&T were not done out of concern for our troops, these actions were done strictly as a way of bolstering the bottom-line. That is why AT&T never sought FCC authorization prior to withholding these payments. This is why AT&T is already arguing that if the commission does rule against them that they only do so prospectively. To maintain the integrity of law the FCC must hold AT&T responsible for their actions both prospectively and retroactively. Anything less calls into question the effectiveness of the government to regulate a fair and completive marketplace, which would be the true detriment to our troops abroad and the general public at home.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Loescher, Chairman Legislative Affairs Committee

Robit Fesseher

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cc: The Honorable Kathleen Q Abernathy, Commissioner; The Honorable Kevin Martin, Commissioner; The Honorable Michael Copps, Commissioner; The Honorable Jonathon Adelstein, Commissioner, Senator Ted Stevens

(W)605.747.2381 - (F) 605.747.2434

Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Presidents Office
president colombe@yahoo.com
(C) 605.441.5624

To:	Honorable Michael K.	Powell, From: Charles C. Col	ombe, i lesident
	Chairman		RECEIVED
Fax:	202.418.0232	Pages: 2	MAR 1 0 2005
Phon	e: 202.418.1000	Date: 2/19/2005	Federal Communications Co.
Re:	Letter	CC: Office File	Office of the Secretary
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	mments: For your review	and consideration.	
• Co	mments: For your review : C. Colombe	and consideration.	



SICANGU OYATE ROSEBUD, SOUTH DAKOTA 57570 P.O. BOX 430 Phone 605/747-2381 - Fax 605/747-2243 CHARLES C. COLOMBE
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Vice-President
JAMES D. WIKE
Treasurer
GERRI NIGHT PIPE
Secretary
GLEN A. YELLOW EAGLE
Sergeent-at-arms

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MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Charles C. Colombe President

February 19, 2005

Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman & Board of Commissioners
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE:(WC Docket No. 03-133)

Dear Chairman Powell & Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein:

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The Rosebud Sioux Tribe has the distinction of being the "second poorest' County in the United States. The un-employment rate hovers around 80% and I have dedicated my administration to build an economy on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Until this enormous task is completed, we will continue to suffer injustices of Commission, Congressional and Senate rulings, the poor people will be affected and continue to pay the costs associated by passage of this proposal.

Native Americans are among the largest users of pre-paid calling cards as they offer reliable and inexpensive means of keeping in touch with family and friends. Because of Native American reservations typically are in rural, less populated areas, traditional phone service can be extremely expensive and in some cases unavailable. By raising the cost of pre-paid cards, the FCC would leave many Native Americans literally disconnected from the rest of the country.

We urge the Commission to reject any proposal that would raise the cost of pre-paid calling cards on which so many Native Americans rely in the course of their daily lives. Thank you for your consideration of this comment. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please call me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

(W)605.747.2381 - (F) 605.747.2434

Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Presidents Office
president colombe@yahoo.com

(C) 605.441.5624

Ex

To:	Honorable Kathleen Q.	From: Charles C. Colombe, President			
	Abernathy, Commissioner			RECEIVED	
Fax:	202.418.0232	Pages: 2		LICOLIVED	
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• Comments: For your review and consideration.

Charles C. Colombe

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Charles C. Colombe President

February 19, 2005

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

SICANGU OYATE ROSEBUD, SOUTH DAKOTA 57570 P.O. BOX 430

Phone 605/747-2381 - Fax 605/747-2243

CHARLES C. COLOMBE

President
NORMAN WILSON
Vice-President
JAMES D. IVIKE
Treasurer
GERRI NIGHT PIPE
Secretary

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MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

*Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman & Board of Commissioners
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell & Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein:

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Sincerely,

(W)605.747.2381 - (F) 605.747.2434

Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Presidents Office
president colombe@yahoo.com
(C) 605.441.5624

To:	Honorable Mic	hael J. Copps,	From:	Charles C.	ColombRECETVED
	Commissioner				
Fax:	202.418.0232		Pages	2	MAR 1 0 2005
Phone	202.418.2000		Date:	2/19/2005	General Communications Commission Office of the Secretary
Re:	Letter		CC:	Office File	
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Charles C. Colombe President

February 19, 2005

Rosebud Sioux Tribe SICANGU OYATE ROSEBUD, SOUTH DAKOTA 57570

P.O. BOX 430

Phone 605/747-2381 - Fax 605/747-2243

CHARLES C. COLOMBE
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NORMAN WILSON
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GLEN A. YELLOW EAGLE
Sergeant-at-arms

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MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman & Board of Commissioners Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

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Rosebud Sioux Tribe Presidents Office president colombe@yahoo.com (C) 605.441.5624

MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, From: Charles C. Colombe, President the Secretary To: Commissioner Pages: 2 Fax: 202.418.0232 **Phone:** 202.418.7097 **Date:** 2/19/2005 CC: Re: Office File Letter Attention: The contents of this Fax message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) named in this message. This communication is intended to be and to remain confidential and may be subject to applicable executive/client and/or work product privileges. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by fax and then destroy this message and its attachments. Do not deliver, distribute or copy this message and/or any attachments and if you are not the intended recipient, do not disclose the contents or take any action in rellance upon the information contained in this communication or any attachments. □ Urgent ☐ Please Comment □ Please Reply □ Please Recycle Comments: For your review and consideration. Charles C. Colombe No. of Capies rec'd List ABCDE



Charles C. Colombe President

February 19, 2005

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

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Rosebud Sioux Tribe Presidents Office president colombe@yahoo.com (C) 605,441.5624

44 A D

To:	Honorable Ke	evin J. Martin,	From:	Charles C. Colombe, President
	Commissione	er		
Fax:	202.418.0232)	Pages	s: 2
Phone	202.418.210	0	Date:	2/19/2005
Re:	Letter		CC:	Office File
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distribut disclose commun Urg	ately alert the send e or copy this mes the contents o nication or any atta ent ase Reply	ler by fax and then desage and/or any attack take any action in the chments. For Review	stroy this m hments and n reliance Recycle	essage and its attachments. Do not delifyou are not the intended recipient, do upon the information contained in Please Commer



Charles C. Colombe President

February 19, 2005

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

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Phone 605/747-2381 - Fax 605/747-2243

CHARLES C. COLOMBE
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RE(WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell & Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein:

I write on behalf of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to express our concern with the FCC's proposal to allow new charges and fees to be imposed on pre-paid calling card services. This proposal will raise the cost of pre-paid calling cards by as much as 20% on the millions of people who rely on this low-cost phone service. We urge the Commission to reject this misguided proposal as it will have a disproportionate and negative effect on tribal communities across the nation.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe has the distinction of being the "second poorest' County in the United States. The un-employment rate hovers around 80% and I have dedicated my administration to build an economy on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Until this enormous task is completed, we will continue to suffer injustices of Commission, Congressional and Senate rulings, the poor people will be affected and continue to pay the costs associated by passage of this proposal.

Native Americans are among the largest users of pre-paid calling cards as they offer reliable and inexpensive means of keeping in touch with family and friends. Because of Native American reservations typically are in rural, less populated areas, traditional phone service can be extremely expensive and in some cases unavailable. By raising the cost of pre-paid cards, the FCC would leave many Native Americans literally disconnected from the rest of the country.

We urge the Commission to reject any proposal that would raise the cost of pre-paid calling cards on which so many Native Americans rely in the course of their daily lives. Thank you for your consideration of this comment. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please call me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely.

FROM : AYDUB & ASSOCIATE

FAX NO. : 7026505062

Feb. 13 2005 06:14PM P2

AYOUB & ASSOCIATES

FUNDRAISING . GRANT WRITING . POLITICAL INSIGHT

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MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

February 8, 2005

The Honorable Michael K. Powell Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 B201 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 8115 Washington, DC 20564

The Honorable Kevin Martin Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 A204 Washington, DC 20554

Re: (WC Docket No. 03-133)

VIA FACSI**M**ILE

The Honorable Michael Copps Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 A302 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Jonathan Adelstein Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8 C302 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

It recently came to my attention that AT&T has been unfairly avoiding contributions to the critical Universal Service Fund by claiming their calling card calls are not a phone call because they play advertisements to the customer before the call is connected. It does not appear accurate that a phone call would not be a phone call just because an advertisement is played during the call connection.

AT&T has admitted it did not pay \$160 million in contributions to the Universal Service Fund and also did not pay companies \$215 million in access charges government regulations require for line access.

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702,453,0000 • FAX 702.650.5062

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7028373728

SC STRATEGIES LLC

PAGE 02/02

FROM : AYOUB & ASSOCIATE

FAX NO. : 7026505062

Feb. 13 2005 06:15PM P3

As a small businessperson in Las Vegas who makes her living on the telephone, I know what a phone call is and I know what is fair.

AT&T's actions are unfair and they should be required to not only make the required Universal Service Fund contribution on all future calling card calls, but they should be required to make retroactive payments to the USF to make up for the contributions they have been avoiding.

Sincerely,

Las Vegas, NV

CC Senator Reid

2/14/05

Michael Powell
FCC Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAR 1 0 2005

Federal Communications Commission

Office of the Secretary

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing this letter to you Mr. Powell to express my disappointment in the Federal Communications Commission. I just learned of the scam that AT&T has used for some time now to take money away from the Universal Service Fund, a fund whose goal is to support, increase, and expand telecommunications service throughout the country. For AT&T not to willingly support this is appalling.

AT&T uses loopholes to avoid paying the fees it owes, by creating "enhanced services" on it's pre-paid calling cards, even though the service is nothing but an advertisement. We are not talking thousands of dollars here either – we're talking millions, hundreds of millions being siphoned away from the USF and into AT&T's bank account.

As you know, AT&T has done something like this before. They have defied the FCC and its rules, and pushed the envelope of a free and competitive market. As in the past, your intervention in this matter is needed, because AT&T shouldn't be able to keep avoiding paying for the local networks it relies on. The FCC needs to protect the Universal Service Fund.

Sincerely,

Gary Bae

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Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy; Commissioner Michael J. Copps; Commissioner Kevin J. Martin; Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



Forest County Potawatomi Community P.O. Box 340, Crandon, Wisconsin 54520

Steven D. LaVake Tribal Chief Financial Officer

Phone: (715) 478-4712 Fax: (715) 478-5280

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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cc/ (202) 225 - 5665 5 (202) 224-9787 5 (202) 224-2725.
ATTENTION: FCC Chairman Michael Powell
SENT BY: Harold FRANK TITLE: Charman
,
DEPARTMENT: Exercive EXT. #: 7200
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PE: WC Docket No. 03-133)
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Thank you.
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Forest County Polawatomi
P.O. Box 340, Crandon, Wisconsin 54520
715-478-7200

February 14, 2005

Chairman Michael Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133 Via Facsimile

Dear Chairman Powel and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein:

On behalf of the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin I wish to express our concern with the FCCs proposal that would allow new charges and fees to be imposed on pre-paid calling card services. This proposal would raise the cost of pre-paid calling cards by as much as 20% on millions of people who rely on this needed low-cost phone service. We urge the Commission to reject this misguided proposal as it will have a disproportionate and negative effect on tribal communities across the nation.

The FCPC tribal government is located in Crandon, Wisconsin with gaming operations in Milwaukee and Carter. Our tribal members are living in a number of Wisconsin communities and in other States. Inexpensive telephone communication is very important particularly for the many tribal members who live in rural Wisconsin. Traditional phone service can be very expensive and in some cases is unavailable.

Native Americans are among the largest users of pre-paid calling cards as they offer a reliable and inexpensive means of keeping in touch with family and friends. By raising the cost of pre-paid calling cards, the FCC would leave many Potawatomi and other Native Americans literally disconnected from the rest of the country.

We urge the Commission to reject any proposal that would raise the cost of prepaid calling cards on which so many Native Americans rely in the course of their daily lives. Thank you for your consideration of this comment. Please contact me if you have any further questions.